

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 – 12 (canceled):

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for rapid screening of parcels to identify parcels likely to contain particles of biological or non-biological contaminants, comprising the steps of:

~~cutting a corner of opening each parcel;~~

~~shaking and compressing the parcels simultaneously thereby releasing any particles in or on the parcel;~~

creating an air flow over the parcels as the parcels are simultaneously shaken and compressed;

sampling particles in the air flow in real-time to detect whether the parcels are likely to include contaminants airflow contains either a high concentration of particles or particles with suspect characteristics;

collecting particles in the air flow with a particulate concentrator equipped with a filter; and

analyzing the filter periodically to provide a second-check of the accuracy of the sampling step;

wherein the filter is provided with a unique identifier corresponding to a group of parcels found to be non-suspect during the sampling step thereby permitting the non-suspect group of parcels to be identified and re-screened if particles of biological or non-biological contaminants are detected during the analyzing the filter step.

Claims 14-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, the sampling step comprising the step of utilizing predetermined characteristic signatures of particles.

Appln. No. 10/501,320  
Amd. dated April 18, 2008  
Reply to Office action of February 19, 2008

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, the utilizing predetermined characteristic signatures of particles step comprising at least one of a threshold detection and a Multivariate Gaussian classifier.

Claims 22-24 (canceled)